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(54) Title: POLYURETHANE-COATED INTRAVASCULAR PROSTHESES (STENTS) FOR THE TREATMENT OF BLOOD VESSEL STENOSIS

(57) Abstract

A new method to treat blood vessel stenosis using endovascular prostheses which are coated with amphiphilic polyurethanes to which medicines can be coupled. By coating endovascular prosthesis with amphiphilic polyurethanes, we have succeeded in significantly improving the bio- and bloodcompatibility of endovascular prostheses. These amphiphilic polyurethanes have the property, when implanted in human or animal tissue and blood vessels, of remaining stable and seeming not to provoke an inflammatory reaction. Furthermore it is possible to incorporate medicines in these polymers which, after implantation of the polymers, are slowly released at the location of the place of implantation. This system can further reduce the thrombogenicity of the prostheses coated with the polyurethanes and inhibit the rejection against these prostheses.

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
"Remark: Although claim 1 is directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the product."
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

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- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP-A-0518704	16-12-92	JP-A- 5200048	10-08-93
WO-A-8704935	27-08-87	DE-A- 3786721	02-09-93
		EP-A, B 0257091	02-03-88
		EP-A- 0556940	25-08-93
		US-A- 4768507	06-09-88
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US-A-4371686	01-02-83	JP-C- 1184116	27-12-83
		JP-A- 57051718	26-03-82
		JP-B- 58008700	17-02-83

5 POLYURETHANE-COATED INTRAVASCULAR PROTHESES (STENTS) FOR THE
TREATMENT OF BLOOD VESSEL STENOSES. A new method to treat
blood vessel stenoses by means of endovascular protheses
which are coated with amphiphilic polyurethanes to which
medicines can be coupled.

10 DESCRIPTION

Treatment of blood vessel stenoses by means of a balloon
catheter is a popular method. Last year, more than
15 6,000 patients with coronary heart disease were treated by
this method in our country. The problem with this method is
on the one hand the danger that a tear occurs during the
blowing up of the balloon whereby the blood vessel can close
and thus cause an acute myocardial infarction, on the other
20 hand it is well documented that this treatment method is
accompanied by a frequent restenosis of the treated blood
vessel within 6 months of the treatment. To solve this
problems, medicines were tested in order to prevent the
restenosis and furthermore new devices were developed.
25 One of these new methods consist of placing a metal
intravascular prothesis (stent) at the level of the vessel
stenosis. This method is very efficient for treating vessel
tears which can occur during balloon dilatation. The problems
with this metallic stents however are that they have proven
30 to be thrombogenic and can cause an acute thrombotic
occlusion of the treated blood vessel. On the other hand, it
appeared that through the implantation of a metal stent in a
blood vessel, the body can react with an inflammatory
reaction whereby restenosis within the stent can occur.
35 By covering these endovascular protheses with amphiphilic
polyurethanes, we succeeded in significantly limiting both
the problem of trombogenicity as well as the problem of
reactive hyperproliferative response.
Amphiphilic polyurethanes were synthesized starting from
40 amphiphilic polyester diols on the basis of ethylene oxide
and proylene oxide. By reaction with a diisocyanate and a
chain lengthener (butanediol), a thermoplastic polyurethane
is finally obtained. By the appropriate choice of a) the
polyesterdiol, especially the proportion of
45 ethyleneoxide/propyleneoxide, and b) the molecular weight
of the diol, the bio- and blood compatibility can be
optimized. Furthermore the kind of sterilisation of
polyurethane-coated devices turned out to be very critical.
We used certain amounts of gamma radiation which resulted in
50 the formation of further crossbridging of the polymer leading
to a more stable and more elastic polymer which is critical
during the stent deployment. The resulting polymers turned
out to be very stable when implanted in human or animal
tissues or blood vessels. Furthermore they did not provoke
55 any inflammatory reaction.
Furthermore we were able to load these polyurethanes with
medicines, which were released slowly at the polymer
implantation side. These medicines are used to further
decrease the trombogenicity of the stents (heparin, hirudin,
60 streptokinase, urokinase, tpa and other anticoagulants) and

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to inhibit the inflammatory reaction caused by the stent
(corticosteroids, antimitotics, angiopeptin and other
10 antiinflammatory drugs.) Using methylprednisolone loaded
polyurethane coated stents we were able to block totally the
stent restenosis in a pig coronary model.

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APPLICATION POSSIBILITIES OF THE SYSTEM

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1. Treatment of blood vessel stenosis in humans and animals.

2. Treatment of complications occurring during other
treatment methods of blood vessel stenosis.

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3. Treatment of complications occurring during diagnostic
procedures.

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4. Coating of prosteses, wires, and catheters introduced for
medical purposes.

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CLAIMS

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By coating endovascular protheses with amphiphilic polyurethanes, we have developed an efficient method to treat blood vessel stenosis. This method proved to considerably limit the thrombogenicity as well as the rejection against endovascular protheses so that this method signifies an important step forward in the treatment of blood vessel stenosis.

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